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DE RUEHDM #0726 1971251
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
P 161251Z JUL 07
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3877
INFO RUEHAD/AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI 1305
RUEHAM/AMEMBASSY AMMAN 6955
RUEHAK/AMEMBASSY ANKARA 5201
RUEHGB/AMEMBASSY BAGHDAD 0498
RUEHEG/AMEMBASSY CAIRO 3298
RUEHDO/AMEMBASSY DOHA 0419
RUEHKU/AMEMBASSY KUWAIT 1241
RUEHRH/AMEMBASSY RIYADH 7781
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC
RHMFISS/CDR USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 000726

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PARIS FOR ZEYA, LONDON FOR TSOU

E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/16/2017
TAGS: [PREF](#) [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [SY](#) [IZ](#)
SUBJECT: SYRIAN DETAINEES RELEASED, SECURITY WORKING GROUP
MEETING MAY TAKE PLACE IN AUGUST

REF: DAMASCUS 00652

Classified By: Charge d'Affaires Michael H. Corbin for
reasons 1.4 b/d

[¶1.](#) (C) The Iraqi Charge d'Affaires in Damascus told Emboff at a reception on July 15 that Iraqi authorities had released two Syrian detainees on July 12 or 13 (mentioned in reftel), potentially paving the way for a Syrian-hosted border security working group meeting in Damascus as early as August [¶1](#). This confirmation follows reports last week by Egyptian diplomats in Damascus who told us that Iraqi FM Zebari had called his Syrian counterpart and informed him categorically that two Syrian "officers" detained since early 2007 and sentenced to ten years in prison would be released imminently. Zebari's call was preceded by a visit to Damascus of Iraqi presidential advisor Fakhri Zanganeh, according to sources here. There has been no official statement from the SARG on the release or on Iraqi working groups to date.

[¶2.](#) (C) Comment: In addition to potential progress on the Syrian-hosted border security working group, the release of the two Syrian detainees may mean Syrian participation in the refugee working group schedule for late July in Amman.

CORBIN